

## **STORET Conference Call – December 4, 2003 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time**

### **Introduction (Cary McElhinney)**

- The minutes from all previous conference calls are available over the web: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/confcalls.html>
- The next scheduled call will be January 15th, 2004 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time. Call in number is (202) 275-0170 access code 9205#
- If you have a special topic you'd like to lead for an upcoming call, please email [mcelhinney.cary@epa.gov](mailto:mcelhinney.cary@epa.gov)
- EPA would like to hear comments you have on the quality of these conference calls. Please send them to [storet@epa.gov](mailto:storet@epa.gov)
- Please subscribe to the STORET automated listserver for announcements regarding conference calls: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/listserv.html>

### **Update from STORET Team**

#### **Enhancements to Data Warehouse**

- We plan to do our monthly refresh of the STORET Data Warehouse this weekend, which will include all data sent through the end of November and also some new features.
- We pushed back our scheduled refresh one week to include the new features.
- Notable enhancements to the Warehouse include ability to download pictures and graphics in the Station, Activity, and Result areas. Also users will now be presented with the option of compressing (zipping) their download file. Other minor interface and database changes are also included in the list of enhancements.
- We are encouraging comments to be sent to us on your thoughts about the Data Warehouse.
- We're also in the final development stages on linking STORET to EnviroMapper for Water and Window to My Environment. While these two applications are not completely under the control of the STORET Team, we hope to have these enhancements ready soon after the New Year.

#### **SIM v2.0.1**

- We're currently testing a beta version SIM v2.0.1 which will include a few enhancements on previous versions of SIM and also an assortment of bug fixes.
- Notable enhancements include the ability to batch import documents and graphics, lab remarks, and data logger results.
- We hope to have this version of SIM released and available by the end of December or early January

#### **Reference Table Upgrade**

- We just released yesterday an update to the STORET reference tables for STORET v2.0. The update is called DBFIX013 and only works with STORET v2.0.
- This update makes additions and corrections in a variety of the STORET System reference tables, mostly in the Characteristic and Characteristic Alias tables.
- The update is around a 1 MB download file and should take about 15 minutes to install.
- You must have STORET v2.0 fully installed before attempting this update.

### **Open Q/A and Comment Period**

Paul Morton from NJ DEP emailed in a list of questions which will be answered first before opening the question/discussion section to all users.

1. What's the status of the STORET/NWIS common view project? (NJ)
  - Not a whole lot of significant updates to report on the common view. We're set to complete Phase 1 very soon by implementing Window to My Environment with both STORET and NWIS data accessible via a common Web-GIS interface. Aligning the data elements for station descriptions through the use of XML-based Web Services will come soon after.
  - We feel the communication lines are live and open with members of USGS, but the next major task involves resolving how NWIS parameters codes and STORET characteristics and associated defaults will line up. We feel the significant amount of work in this area is more in USGS's hands, where there are resource decisions to be made out of our control.
2. What's the status of the CDX/Beaches effort? (NJ)
  - The "eBeaches" mechanism for reporting monitoring data to STORET via the web is in production. While we assisted in the development of the project, we don't participate much in the daily management of this project. Please contact Charles Kovatch of EPA's Beaches Program for more info.
  - It is probably safe to say that the methods for reporting data to STORET via the web are still in the infancy stages and won't be made available to the larger STORET community anytime soon.
3. Did the results of the National STORET Alliance from earlier this year ever get published? (NJ)
  - We're putting the final touches on a document tentatively titled "Tips and Tricks for Setting up STORET" that used lessons gained from this survey. This document would be geared towards new STORET users to provide insight into how other users have set up Projects, Station, Trips, and things under Preferences and Defaults.
  - We plan to run a final draft version by the responders of the survey to make sure we captured everything correctly, and then release the document early next year.
4. Anything new on the STORET v3.0 Joint Application Design (JAD) sessions? (NJ)
  - As reported on a previous call, we've put all design sessions for future versions of STORET on hold for now.
  - Instead we will be conducting a user need's analysis to gauge how the current system is meeting or not meeting the needs of both EPA and the STORET users.
  - We'll have more to report on that analysis starting next month. We anticipate that we'll be looking to the user community for volunteers to be interviewed as part of this analysis.
5. We're getting ready to export our first v2.0 database to the Warehouse. Can we use the existing Referential Integrity (RI) scripts to check for problems? (MN)
  - Previous versions of the RI scripts have been changed to meet the changes in STORET v2.0. The updated RI scripts can be obtained from the STORET FTP site <ftp://ftp.epa.gov/storet> or by emailing [storet@epa.gov](mailto:storet@epa.gov). Kevin will be updating other tables on the FTP site as well next week.
6. Is there going to be a STORET User Conference next year? (NC)
  - At this point we're not making plans to host another STORET User Conference. With the upcoming National Monitoring Conference coming up in May, we felt it would be difficult to support both that and a STORET conference. We'll look towards the possibility of planning something next fall.

7. **How can I describe that a biological activity found zero results? (Steve Hale EPA ORD)**
  - STORET may not have the ability to capture the fact that a biological activity may occur that didn't find any organisms. It's possible you could include a zero count for particular taxa that you were looking for or for upper level taxa – such as Insecta. Or, an activity doesn't have to have any results, so comments such as “zero taxa found” could be included at the activity level.
  - The user was asked to email this question in so that more thought and research could be put towards it.
8. **I've discovered that SIM can't import parent/child relationships in water samples, but the STORET Batch Module can. Is there a document that lists out all the differences between the 2 batch import methods? (OH EPA)**
  - It's correct that SIM currently doesn't handle samples created from samples for water samples. We'll attempt to fix this in a future enhancement to SIM. Also, additional results cannot be added to an existing activity nor can data be changed or deleted via the SIM but we hope to change this in future SIM versions.
  - The differences between SIM and the STORET Batch Module are not well documented at this time. The two import methods have been designed under two completely different design paths under direction from two separate contractors. These different starting points owe a great deal to the differences found.
9. **Is there still space available for the training in DC next week? (Region 3)**
  - At this point the room is pretty full, but please contact Otto Gutenson for info on this and future DC trainings.
  - We also plan to announce training sessions for the spring soon
10. **Is the RI script mandatory? (Reg 2)**
  - While running the RI script isn't mandatory before exporting to EPA, it does take the burden off us since we run it from here.
  - It is especially vital if users have utilized other methods for data entry other than the standard suite of STORET applications.
11. **Will the CDX/Beaches data end up in the Data Warehouse? (Patrick Detscher)**
  - At some point, yes. We consider the copy of STORET maintained by the Beaches program to be just like any other remote copy of STORET that can export data to the Data Warehouse at any time.

### **Participants on call (based on who emailed [storet@epa.gov](mailto:storet@epa.gov))**

Lee Manning	US EPA HQ
Cary McElhinney	US EPA HQ
Kevin Christian	US EPA HQ
Stan Stephansen	US EPA Region 2
Larry Merrill	US EPA Region 3
Ed Kim	US EPA Region 1
Robin Fletcher	US EPA Region 1
Karen Rush	US EPA Region 7
Stephen Hale	US EPA Office of Research and Development
Jim Adkins	WV DEP
Jim Porter	MN Pollution Control Agency
Bruce Tuttle	Idaho Dept of Water Resources
Linda Cartwright	Tennessee DEC
David Chestnut	SC DHEC
Cecil Severs	NM Environment Dept
Jay H. Sauber	N.C. Division of Water Quality

Dianne Denson  
Deb Soule  
Roger E. Stewart II  
Dawn Anderson  
Patrick Detscher  
Dwane Young  
Erik W. Leppo  
Carlton Washburn  
Vimala John  
Fred Schenerman  
Abiodun Ogunmola  
Elinor Zetina  
Scott Brown  
Jim Christman

Alaska DEC  
NH DES  
VA Department of Environmental Quality  
MT DEQ  
Acclaim Systems, Inc.  
RTI  
Tetra Tech, Inc.  
MDE  
MDE  
MDE  
MDE  
MDE  
KS DHE  
Hunton & Williams LLP